

# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe*

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AUGUST 9, 1954

## Voters Study the Record Chalked Up by Congress

**National Elections This Fall Will Indicate Citizens' Approval or Disapproval of What U. S. Lawmakers Have Done**

AS JULY ended, the Republican-controlled 83rd Congress was preparing to finish its 1954 session. Members would soon turn full attention to the forthcoming national elections.

Voters' opinions on how well Congress has done in recent months will strongly affect the election outcome. Republicans, who now control both the Senate and the House of Representatives, will probably keep their majorities if most people think a good job has been accomplished. Democrats will be more likely to achieve

he doesn't really do an effective job against the communists, but has chalked up a record of reckless smears against loyal citizens.

This year McCarthy clashed with Army Secretary Robert Stevens and other military officials. Senate committee hearings, lasting almost two months, were held to thresh out a tangled mass of accusations involving McCarthy's search for subversives in the Army, and concerning the Army's treatment of a former McCarthy aide—G. David Schine. These televised hearings ended in June.

Later, Roy Cohn resigned from his post as chief counsel of the McCarthy investigating committee. Another committee aide, Donald Surine, was transferred to McCarthy's personal staff. It has been reported, too, one of Secretary Stevens' helpers might resign soon.

One of McCarthy's chief critics is Republican Senator Ralph Flanders of Vermont. In July, Flanders asked his fellow lawmakers to vote an official reprimand against McCarthy for conduct that "tends to bring the Senate into disrepute." This proposal met heavy opposition.

It came up for formal discussion about a week ago, and McCarthy's principal foes sought a quick decision. On August 2, however, the senators voted 75-12 to set up a special committee which would study the matter and report back before the Senate adjourned. The 12 McCarthy opponents voting against this move included 9 Democrats and 3 Republicans.

**Atomic energy.** Congress, especially the Senate, fell into a major dispute over proposed amendments to our basic atomic energy law. Mostly, the fight involved electric power.

Commercial production of electricity  
(Continued on page 2)



**SENATOR John Bricker, Ohio Republican.** He failed to win approval of his proposed amendment to limit Presidential treaty-making powers.

gains if the voters are dissatisfied.

At present the GOP holds each house by an extremely narrow margin. Our Senate has 48 Republicans, 47 Democrats, and 1 Independent. The House of Representatives has 219 Republicans, 214 Democrats, 1 Independent, and 1 vacancy.

Of course, lawmakers don't always vote according to party lines. On many issues this year, Republican President Eisenhower found supporters in each party—and opponents too. In some cases he received more support from Democrats than from members of his own party.

Discussed in the following paragraphs are several of the main topics and issues that have kept our lawmakers busy since last January. Largely on the basis of these, America's voters are to choose members of the Congress that meets next year.

**McCarthy question.** Disputes centering upon Senator Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin have been in the congressional spotlight during most of the present year. McCarthy's followers claim that he carries the main burden of the fight against communism in America. His foes reply that



AUSTRIA'S lovely mountain regions draw tourists from all parts of the world

## Austria Waits Patiently For Its Day of Freedom

**Russia's Refusal to Recall Her Occupation Troops Is Major Obstacle to Peace Treaty**

**A**ND American who recently visited Berlin and Vienna was flabbergasted at the different atmosphere prevailing in the two cities. Each is a little, international "island" deep within Soviet-occupied territory. Each city is divided into separate zones, occupied by American, British, French, and Russian troops. But there the similarity ceases.

The German metropolis of Berlin is a grim and bitter outpost where the visitor is constantly reminded of the cold war between the Soviet Union and the western lands. Among the city's residents, worry and fear is never far from the surface. It is not advisable to go into the part of the city occupied by the Russians.

Vienna—the capital city of Austria—is, on the other hand, carefree and relaxed. On weekends, happy picnic parties crowd the trains. Life is unexciting but comfortable. It is neither difficult nor dangerous to go from one zone of the city to another.

Actually the people of Vienna have their worries, too, but they have learned to accept a difficult situation

and make the best of it. They do not get too concerned about developments in the cold war. Even abrupt changes in Russian policies toward their government leave the Austrians unperturbed.

Evidence of this latter fact was seen a short time ago when the Soviet High Commissioner summoned Chancellor Julius Raab of Austria and his top assistant. The Russian gave the two Austrians a tongue lashing. He charged that there was a plot to unite Austria and Germany once more, and claimed that Austrians were stirring up ill will against Soviet occupation troops.

The Austrian officials denied the charges. They indicated later that they considered the scolding a propaganda move on the part of the Russians. The Austrian leaders did not appear to be upset. They have been standing up to the Soviet authorities for a long time now, and are no longer surprised at unpredictable changes in Russian policy.

The tongue lashing appeared to end  
(Concluded on page 6)



**SENATOR McCARTHY** and Army Secretary Stevens confer. They were top figures in the year's most sensational congressional investigation.

# Congress—1954

(Continued from page 1)

from atomic generating plants will probably start within a few years. President Eisenhower and his supporters have sought to increase the role of private companies—rather than that of the government—in developing electric power from the atom. Numerous lawmakers—mainly Democrats—oppose this policy and want commercial atomic power left largely in Uncle Sam's hands.

Moreover, the atomic energy bill became entangled in the long-continued dispute over government-operated electric plants in the Tennessee Valley.

As we go to press, controversies over the electric power issues are holding up completion of congressional work on the atomic energy measure. Committeemen are seeking to iron out differences in the versions passed by House and Senate.

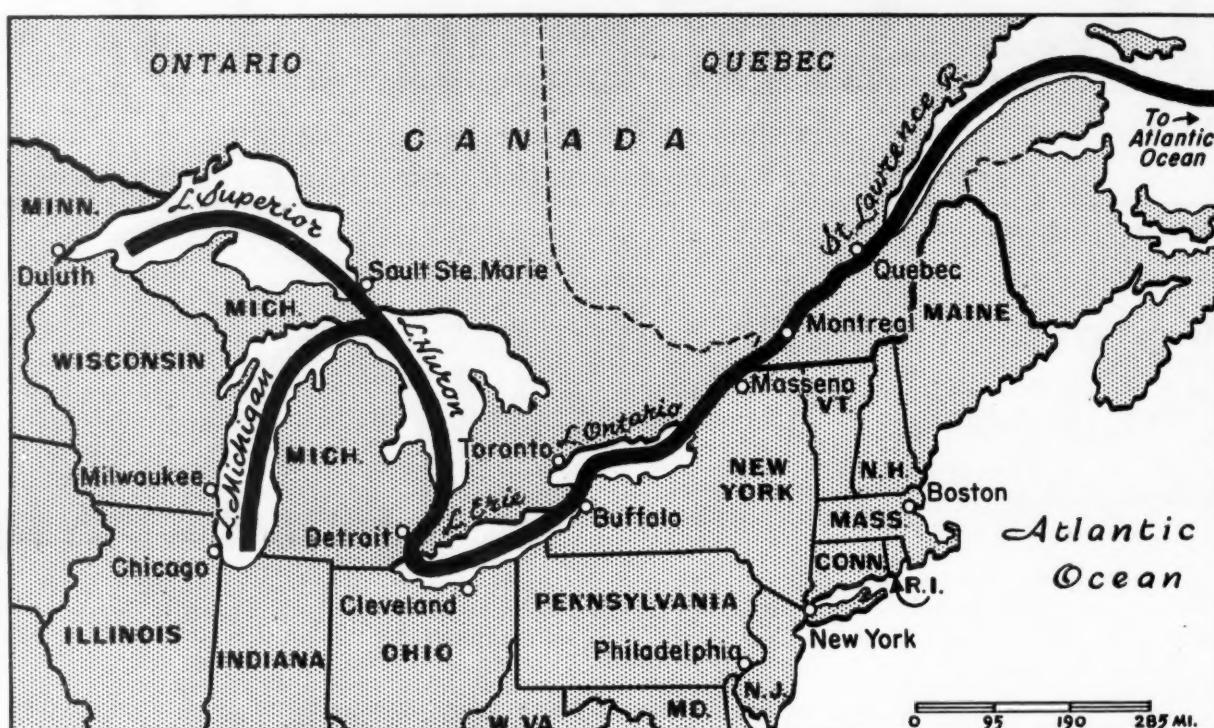
The proposed law, written as an amendment to the Atomic Energy Act of 1946, contains important provisions other than those on electric power. For instance, it would let our government give friendly foreign nations certain types of information about the military uses of atomic weapons, and about the atom's peacetime developments.

**Defense** against the danger of Soviet and Chinese communist aggression is a major problem for America and the rest of the free world. Congress, though, hasn't been asked to draw up much new defense legislation this year.

So far as recent defense measures are concerned, the lawmakers' principal job has been to vote great sums of money for the U. S. military forces. President Eisenhower requested more than 31 billion dollars in new funds for use by our Defense Department and our atomic enterprises—mostly military—in the year ending next June. Congress granted a little over 30 billion.

Still awaiting Senate action, late in July, was a "Mutual Security" measure designed to furnish continued military and economic aid for America's anti-Soviet allies. Observers expected roughly 3 billion dollars in new foreign aid funds to be provided for the year ending next June.

Late in January the Senate approved



CONGRESS THIS YEAR approved cooperation with Canada to complete the St. Lawrence Seaway, a project that has long been under discussion. The Seaway will allow big ships to travel between the Great Lakes and the Atlantic Ocean.

a treaty under which America promises to help South Korea in case that country is again attacked by the communists. Approval was by a vote of 81 to 6. As is the case with all treaties, House action on this was measure was not required.

**Taxes.** During the last week of July, the lawmakers finished their work on a measure which overhauls the U. S. income tax system. This bill doesn't make any basic changes in the tax rate, but it permits many new deductions—so that large numbers of people will find their taxes lower than before.

Many Democrats opposed the new measure, on grounds that it grants too many favors for wealthy taxpayers and not enough for people with lower incomes. They objected especially to a provision that reduces the total amount of tax to be paid on dividends from stock in business corporations. This provision, the Democrats charged, would mainly benefit "wealthy stockholders." Republicans replied that there are large numbers of *non-wealthy* stockholders in America.

Meanwhile, Uncle Sam's revenues from income taxes and other sources still don't quite measure up to his

expenses. As a result, the government continues to borrow money. The national debt is near its upper limit—as set by law—of 275 billion dollars. President Eisenhower wants Congress to boost this limit to 290 billion. House approval of such an increase was obtained some time ago, but—as the end of the session approached—Senate action was uncertain.

**Foreign trade.** Many people argue that if we buy large quantities of goods from friendly foreign nations, our purchases will help make those countries prosperous and strong. This, it is held, will enable the foreign allies to build up their own defenses against communism, without having to rely heavily on American gifts and loans.

Opponents of extensive foreign trade reply that we shouldn't allow large quantities of goods from overseas to compete in the American market with the products of U. S. farms and factories.

For many years, *Congress* made most of the decisions on our foreign trade policy. Since 1934, however, there has been a program that lets the *President* draw up trade-promoting agreements with nations abroad. It is generally felt that we have had lower tariffs and more foreign trade under this latter system than would have existed if the matter had stayed entirely in Congress' hands.

The trade-agreements program was scheduled to end last June, but President Eisenhower—who favors extensive commerce with other countries—asked Congress to continue it for three years. His proposal met opposition from lawmakers who are uneasy about the effects of large-scale foreign trade. In the Senate, a motion to support the President's three-year request went down to defeat. Though favored by 32 Democrats, it was opposed by 6 Democrats and 39 Republicans.

Eventually Congress voted to extend the trade agreements program for just one year—until June 12, 1955. President Eisenhower signed the extension bill on July 1.

**Farm program.** This is one of the major problems still before Congress as we go to press. For a number of years, the U. S. government has "supported" the prices of various farm

products in an effort to assure farmers a fair income. On wheat, cotton, and several other products, the present farm law sets a rigid—and comparatively high—level at which prices are to be supported. Many farmers favor this arrangement, but numerous congressmen—along with the Eisenhower administration—think the government should be given more leeway in setting the support figure.

A bill to provide flexible price supports for wheat, corn, cotton, rice, and peanuts was approved by the House of Representatives early in July. The Senate, however, has waited until the last minute to grapple with this issue.

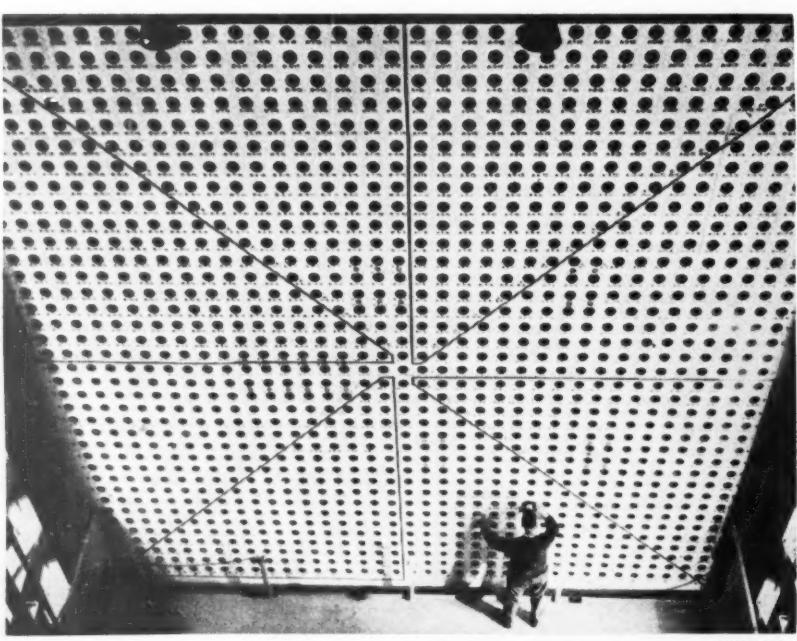
*If* Congress fails to pass a new farm-price measure, here is what the situation will be: The present "rigid support" law will automatically expire at the end of 1954. Another measure—already on the books—will then take effect, and it provides a more flexible support system.

**Housing.** The U. S. government now helps construction companies and private individuals to get loans for purposes of home-building and home-repair. Also, for a number of years, it has carried on a *public housing* program, which works as follows: Uncle Sam offers financial aid to city and other local government agencies. Through this assistance, the local governments build homes and rent them at low cost to families who couldn't otherwise afford good housing.

Congress has passed a bill which overhauls the federal housing program. The measure makes various changes in the rules under which our government helps people obtain loans for home-building. But, to President Eisenhower's disappointment, it doesn't provide for the construction of much new public housing.

Eisenhower wanted a continuation of the federal public housing program, under which Uncle Sam would help the local governments construct 35,000 low-rent homes annually for four years. In July Congress voted to extend the program only one year—with extremely tight restrictions.

**Health.** Hospital and other medical expenses create a big worry for many American families. Serious illness, striking unexpectedly, can bring tremendous financial hardship. Numer-



HOW BEST TO GUARD our atomic secrets has been a big issue before Congress this year. A large reactor, used in the atomic process, is shown above.

ous families protect themselves against this hazard, to some extent, by making regular contributions to health insurance organizations. In case of illness, insurance benefits then cover at least part of the expense.

Former President Truman didn't regard our present system of private and voluntary health insurance associations as adequate. He favored a *compulsory* national health insurance program, under government supervision. Congress never approved this idea.

President Eisenhower takes a different approach. He wants U. S. financial aid for the present-day voluntary health insurance groups. These associations now provide coverage, to some extent, for about 92 million Americans. Eisenhower wants a program under which Uncle Sam would help them reach millions more, and also give added protection to the families who already have some degree of health insurance coverage.

The President asked Congress to set up such a program this year, but the House of Representatives blocked his request. Opposition to the President's measure was stronger among Democrats than among Republicans. Some opponents—both Republican and Democratic—felt that the federal government should have nothing to do with health insurance. Others—mainly Democratic—held that the Eisenhower program was a wholly inadequate substitute for former President Truman's compulsory national health insurance plan.

**St. Lawrence.** A debate more than 30 years old was brought to a climax in May when Congress approved U. S. participation in the St. Lawrence Seaway project. This enterprise, on which Canada and the United States are now expected to work jointly, will enable large ships to move from the Atlantic Ocean through the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes. Construction work probably will take about six years. The St. Lawrence project has been favored by six Presidents in succession, including Eisenhower.

**Statehood** for Alaska and Hawaii. Bills to make Hawaii a state were passed both in the House and in the Senate. But the Senate proposal also included Alaska, while the House bill did not. A measure can't become law unless passed in *identical* form by both houses of Congress.

Late in July, efforts to obtain Alaskan or Hawaiian statehood this year were practically given up. The issue

will undoubtedly be raised again when a new Congress meets in 1955.

**Labor law.** The Taft-Hartley Act, which regulates dealings between employers and employees, came up for discussion again this year. In general, labor union leaders say this law is unfair toward the workers, but most employers think it is satisfactory.

In the last Presidential campaign, Democrats called for a complete repeal of this measure. Republicans argued that the act should, with certain changes, be kept. This year, Republican congressmen worked for passage of a measure that would have amended Taft-Hartley—while preserving the general pattern of the law.

The amending bill came up for Senate consideration last spring, but was sent back to a Senate committee and "pigeonholed" for the remainder of the session. Victorious opponents of the Taft-Hartley revision bill were mostly Democrats, joined by a few Republicans. These opponents acted for various reasons. Some thought the measure was too favorable toward unions; others said it didn't favor the unions enough.

**Bricker Amendment.** The Senate, in February, rejected Ohio Senator John Bricker's proposed Constitutional amendment involving treaties. Bricker sought strict new limits on the President's power to make treaties and other agreements with foreign nations. He thinks this power is now too broad. His opponents argue that the Bricker Amendment would have seriously crippled our government in its dealings with other countries.

Bricker's proposal, which received somewhat more support from Republicans than Democrats, was killed in the Senate by a margin of one vote. Mr. Bricker and his friends are expected to push a similar measure next year.

**Miscellaneous.** Congress rejected a proposed Constitutional amendment that would have lowered the voting age to 18 throughout our nation. It passed a long-range measure to aid in building and maintaining federal and state highways. Still under consideration late last month was a proposal to enlarge the U. S. social security system. Various measures to make life tougher for U. S. communists and other subversives have also been under study.

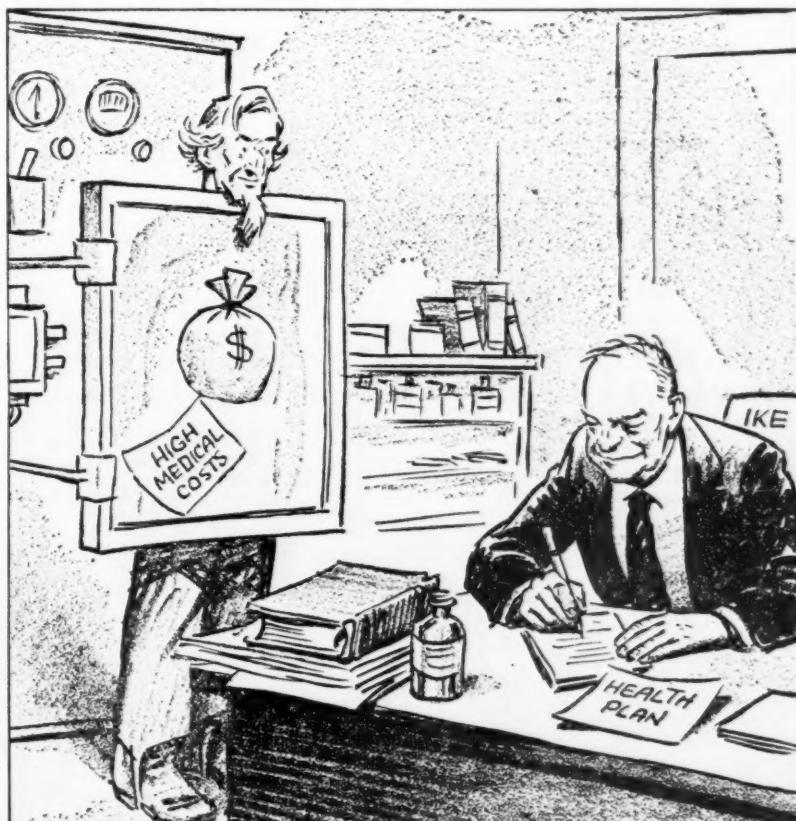
Consult your daily papers for details of final congressional action on issues which the lawmakers have left pending until the closing days of their session.



U. S. TROOPS board a big Globemaster transport enroute to training maneuvers. How best to keep our defense forces strong was debated at considerable length in the session of Congress now ending. The lawmakers granted over 30 billion dollars in new funds to go for defense during the year ending next June.



HOW TO HANDLE farm surpluses and how much federal aid to give the farmer were major congressional issues this session. The huge bin of wheat in storage, shown above, gives some idea of surpluses that have piled up in our country. Farm state candidates for Congress may win or lose votes in the election this fall—depending on how voters accept plans for farm aid that may be offered.



"IKE'S PRESCRIPTION" is the cartoonist's title. The President presented a federal health-care plan to Congress this session—but it was not approved. Some congressional opponents held that the federal government should keep out of the health insurance business. Others thought Mr. Eisenhower's program did not go far enough in providing benefits for Americans who fall ill.



A PRESIDENTIAL proposal to let 18-year-olds vote was turned down by Congress. Georgia is the only state that now allows 18-year-olds to cast ballots. Shown here are Georgia young people registering before an election.

# The Story of the Week

## NOTICE

In accordance with our usual schedule, we are suspending publication of *The American Observer* for the coming three weeks. The next issue will appear under date of September 6, 1954.

## Disarmament Meetings

The United Nations Disarmament Commission began a series of meetings recently to discuss a proposal by the United States, Britain, and France to seek international arms curbs. This development came just 8 years after the U. S. first offered to give up its atomic weapons if proper safeguards could be established. Since that time, no actual progress has been made in the effort to abolish or control the armaments race and the production of super bombs.

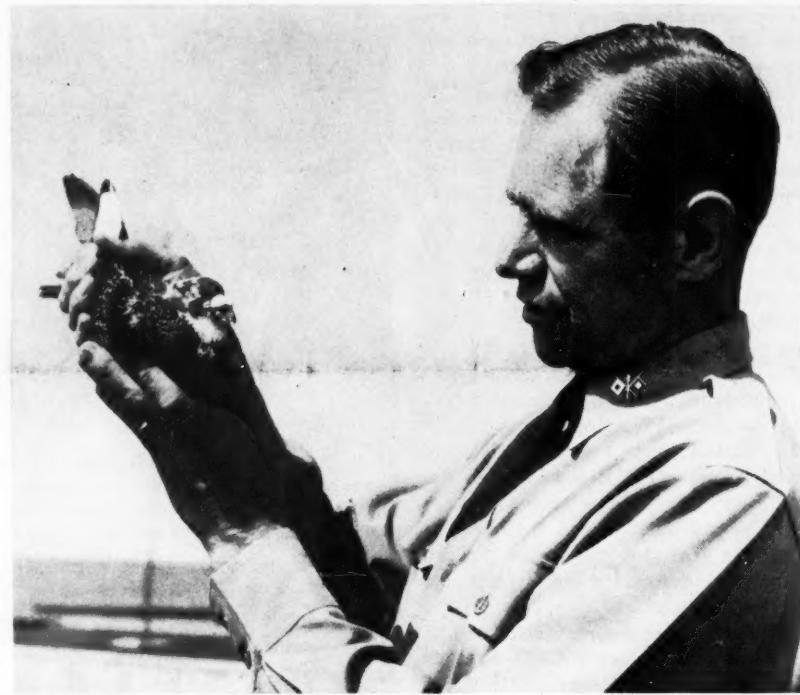
In spite of the lack of progress, the disarmament talks continue. The Big Three asked for the new discussion in the hope that perhaps Russia is finally ready to seek an accord.

## The "Watch Case"

After debating for several weeks, President Eisenhower reached a difficult decision on tariffs which could have great influence on the world's trade policy. The President decided to raise the tariff on certain imported watches up to 50 per cent.

The nation's watch industry, which has suffered from the competition of imported watches from Switzerland, greeted the President's decision warmly. The industry favored the higher tariffs, arguing that the last tariff adjustment on Swiss watches was made 18 years ago, and that new rates are desirable. The watchmakers further stated that the skills necessary to manufacture watches are essential to national defense, particularly in the production of time fuses and other such intricate mechanisms.

President Eisenhower's move to raise the tariff, however, was based



**"FANCY MEETING YOU HERE."** Captain Arthur Lehman could be saying that to "GI Joe," a homing pigeon hero of World War II. Joe was recently flown from California to Washington, by commercial airliner, with a message for President Eisenhower—and surprisingly met up with the captain, who had handled the pigeon for a time during the big war.

chiefly on the fact that the domestic industry has been suffering from the competition of watches imported from Switzerland. The sale of watches, especially those manufactured in this country, has fallen off in the first half of the year, and the President hopes that the tariff increase will aid the domestic watchmakers.

Opponents of the tariff increase hold that the rise will not really aid our watch industry very much, while it will hurt the sale of imported watches. They point out that the sale of imported watches, as well as those made here, has fallen off, and that the tariff increase will cause it to drop even further. They hold that the Swiss watch manufacturers should not be penalized because the sale of watches in this country has slowed down for the time being. People are not spending money as freely as they were a

year or so ago for costly luxuries.

Critics also contend that many American industries require a high degree of precision, so that men with special skills would not vanish even if the watch industry did suffer from foreign competition.

The President's decision on this matter will be carefully examined throughout the world. Mr. Eisenhower has stated that he is in favor of expanding world trade, but the tariff increase on watches is interpreted in some countries as a sign of a more restrictive American trade policy.

Supporters of the President contend that this is a special situation, and that our tariffs in general have been going down.

The "watch case" has been discussed in every western European nation and has been presented to the public as a test of the United States' intentions on trade policy. Switzerland has stated that it might raise some of its own tariffs on U. S. goods, and other countries may follow this action.

## Drought Is Serious

The situation faced by the nation's farmers continues to grow more serious as each day passes without rain. Almost the entire country east of Wyoming is suffering from a lack of rainfall. In some states, conditions are the worst they have been since the mid-1930's, when droughts brought ruin to many farmers.

Cattle ranchers and sheep raisers are also suffering from the lack of rainfall. Pastures are drying up, and many of these farmers must either give their herds some of the feed put away for next winter or else sell the animals before they are ready for market.

Several states have been named as disaster drought areas. This entitles farmers and ranchers within those states to receive government loans to help pay the transportation costs of

hay bought as feed. The emergency program also enables ranchers to purchase additional livestock feed at reduced prices.

While these emergency measures are being undertaken, farmers have set their hopes on the only thing that can restore the land and save their crops and livestock—rain.

## Reading Habits

Book reading habits of young people are changing, according to reports of library officials in cities throughout the nation. As a result, young readers are turning from wild west stories and fantasy to books on science.

Many boys and girls of grade school age are choosing reading material 3 and 4 years ahead of their age and educational level. Books on cowboys, once tops in popularity, are giving way to stories about space cadets and science textbooks.

In many areas, efforts are being made at the high school level to keep the students' interest in science alive. Whether the growing popularity of science will actually produce geniuses in this field remains to be seen.

According to public library officials, this new interest in science is primarily a result of the influence of radio and television. A constantly increasing number of science fiction and education programs are being sent over the air waves. This fact, coupled with the advances being made daily



**A PORTABLE**, electronic piano is the newest for teaching students in classrooms. Wrought iron legs support the instrument, which is 33 inches high. Earphones permit a student to plug into his own playing, so that only he can hear it. Wurlitzer designed the instrument.

in scientific invention and discovery, has given rise to the increased interest in science among our youth.

## Suez Canal Settlement

Britain and Egypt have reached an agreement over the Suez Canal Zone, a trouble spot for many years, but for the free world the pact poses new problems.

Under the new agreement, the British troops now in the canal zone will leave and can return only in the event of war. The Suez, occupying a strategic position, has served as a unifying force for the western nations in the trouble-ridden Middle East. This will cease when the British troops pull out of the region.

Also, now that Egypt's dispute with



**INTO THE HOSPITAL.** The big liner *United States* goes into drydock for a checkup. Our largest and fastest passenger liner will have a scraping job and her propellers checked—and will also get some paint.



PRESIDENT EISENHOWER talks to newspapermen. The President often expresses his views on proposed legislation at his press conferences—so that people across the nation may know where he stands on issues under debate in Congress.

Britain is settled, some observers fear that the North African nation might get involved in more serious trouble with Israel. Those neighboring countries have been feuding since Israel was set up as a republic in 1948.

One answer to the problem which has been proposed would be to substitute another area for the Suez Canal Zone, to act as a buffer between Egypt and Israel and to give Britain a foothold in the region. Some people have suggested for this purpose the wide southern desert of Israel. If an arrangement could be made with Israel, this area could take the strategic position that the Suez has held and also serve as a buffer zone in Middle East politics.

No matter how the free world meets these new problems, the British troops will withdraw from the canal zone by mid-1956 in accordance with their agreement. However, British stores and installations along the 104-mile-long canal will be maintained by English or Egyptian civilians for at least 7 years. Future arrangements will be made at the end of that period.

#### Lawyers' Proposal

A committee representing the American Bar Association, a national group of lawyers and judges, has proposed the teaching of the theory and practice of communism in all our public schools. The association will be asked to approve the recommendation at its annual convention later in August.

Whether to allow communist theory to be taught in the country's schools has been a source of much debate in the past. In making its suggestion, the ABA group expressed its conviction that communist theory should be taught along with the theory and practice of the United States government under the Constitution. In this way, the dangers of communism could be understood and compared to the operation of this nation's government.

The committee emphasized its belief that the teaching of communist

theory and practice should be done by regular teachers. It further stated that while it recognized that its proposal deals with a highly controversial subject, it believes that the menace of communism can best be met head-on in our schools by showing the youth of the nation what its philosophy and practice really is.

#### France Looks Ahead

The end of the Indochina War marks for France the beginning of new economic and financial problems. Premier Pierre Mendes-France faces several difficult tasks as a result of the cease-fire in Indochina.

France has been receiving United States aid for the battle in Indochina at the rate of nearly 1 billion dollars a year. This money greatly bolstered the country's economy and kept down the rate of unemployment. These payments will now stop fairly quickly. As a result, many small French manufacturers will be forced out of business and unemployment will rise.

Another problem faced by Mendes-France will be to find new outlets for French trade which has been directed to Indochina. Once the country's economic grip on that area is broken, it will lose many of its trade advantages there.

#### Free World Trade

A report that the world is progressing toward free trade came at the same time that this country announced the end of trade restrictions with communist nations on 150 various items.

The trade report was issued by the International Monetary Fund, which makes a yearly survey of world economic conditions. The fund stated that the removal of many trade barriers in the last 18 months has brought the world closer to free international trade than at any other time since the end of World War II.

The report emphasized that there are still many government-imposed re-

strictions to the free flow of goods. But great progress has been made, particularly in western Europe, and the prospect of further removal of restrictions is good.

At the same time, Harold Stassen, Director of the Foreign Operations Administration, announced that the United States and 14 European countries have agreed to knock 150 items from a list of 400 that cannot be traded with the Soviet Union and its satellite nations. This move has been urged by businessmen and by the British government. Prime Minister Winston Churchill has said it is a way of promoting good relations between the nations on both sides of the iron curtain.

A number of members of Congress, though, are against all trade with communist countries. They argue that it strengthens them, even though the trade involves goods that are considered to be non-strategic.

#### Food for Europe

The communist governments of several Eastern European nations have been put on a spot as a result of an announcement by President Eisenhower. The President offered to send American food and other aid to the people of countries that suffered from a recent flood on the Danube River. This offer includes several Iron Curtain nations.

Under the President's plan, the food would come from government-held surpluses. Estimates put the needs of the flood victims at about 4 million dollars' worth of food relief.

The President's offer presents a problem for the communist governments involved. If they accept American aid, they will be admitting their own inability to feed their people. If they turn down the offer, the flood victims will blame their communist rulers for letting them go hungry.

#### Costa Rica

The tiny nation of Costa Rica is the hot spot of Central America today. That country is engaged in a war of nerves with its Caribbean neighbors.

The prime target of this nerve war, which some fear could become a shooting war, is Costa Rica's president, Jose Figueres. Mr. Figueres is a liberal who is strongly democratic and opposes dictators. As such, he is unpopular with many of the leaders of countries surrounding Costa Rica.

Most of the opposition from within the country to Mr. Figueres stems from wealthy businessmen. They accuse him of being unsympathetic toward business interests and in favor of socialistic practices. He denies these charges.

Mr. Figueres' enemies, both internal and external, would like to see him out of power. Since he was elected only last summer for a 4-year term, they will have to throw him out to get their wish—and that is exactly what is being attempted. Several small uprisings have recently been put down.

In spite of this situation, Mr. Figueres is in a fairly strong position. He is supported by the U. S. government.



NOT RECOMMENDED for the timid. A board, an outboard motor, and skill are the ingredients for this Florida surf sport. The two experts are training for a marathon race of about 130 miles—from Miami to Palm Beach and back.

# Patient Austria

(Concluded from page 1)

a long period of comparative harmony between Russian occupation officials and the Austrian government. For some time previous to this incident, the Russians had been unusually agreeable. They had obviously been trying to win the friendship of the Austrians.

The policy failed. The Austrians have experienced too many examples of Soviet strong-arm tactics over the past nine years to be taken in. They showed no more interest in becoming friendly with the Russians than they previously had. The Soviet leaders, irritated—it would seem—at the failure of their velvet-glove policy, then decided to resort to harsher tactics.

What is surprising is that the Russians thought they could win Austria's friendship so easily. The nation's troubles in recent years are due in large part to the actions of the Soviet Union. If it were not for the Russians, this central European country (about the size of Maine) would today be completely independent, unoccupied by foreign troops.

Austria has not been on its own since 1938. In that year Adolf Hitler joined Austria to Germany, its northern neighbor. The smaller country became part of the German Reich, and was ruled as part of Germany until the end of World War II.

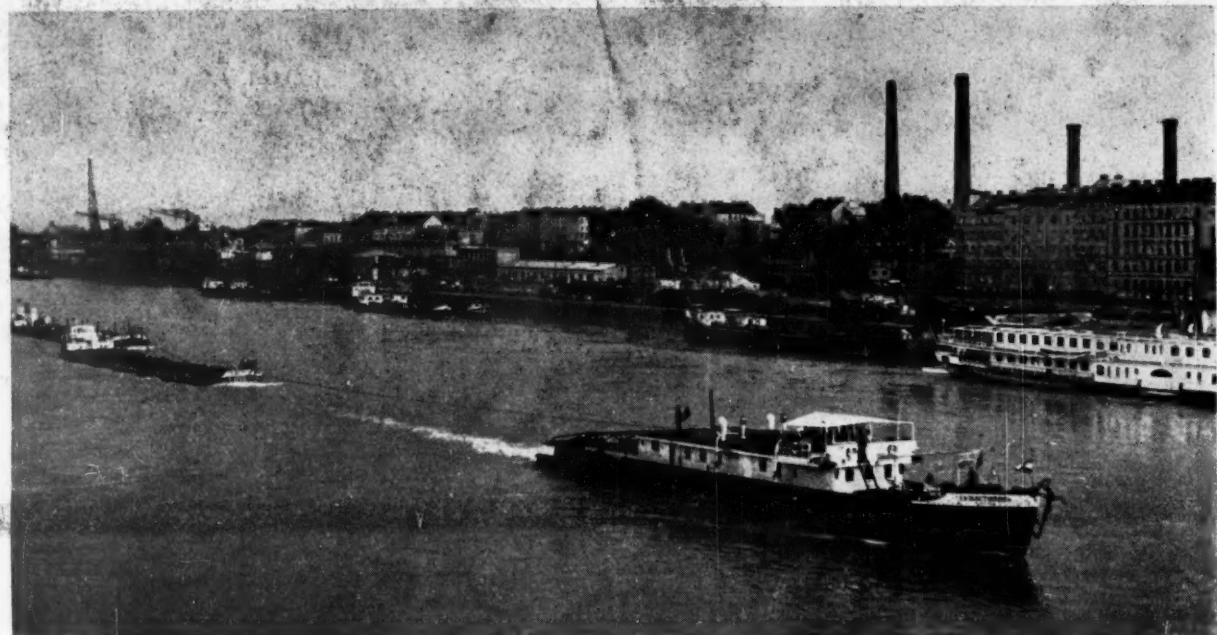
#### Allies' Statement

In the midst of that conflict, Russia, Britain, and the United States—allies in the fight against the Axis—made a joint statement regarding Austria. They announced that they did not recognize Hitler's seizure of the country. They said that Austria should again become a free and independent nation after the war.

In 1945 the allied armies smashed their way into Austria and freed the country of German control. Once the war ended, western peoples expected the allied forces to be withdrawn as soon as the Austrians had set up a government that could maintain order. But the situation did not develop that way.

The Soviet Union, whose troops occupied eastern Austria, did not want to withdraw them. So long as Russian troops remained in the east, we felt required to keep forces in the west. If we had not done so, the Soviet Union probably would have seized the whole country. So Austria remained occupied.

Despite the long occupation, Austria has, in many ways, been better off



A RUSSIAN BOAT on the Danube River. It's hauling oil from Austria to the Soviet Union.

BLACK STAR

than Germany. The latter became two countries—a communist land in the east, and a non-communist nation in the west. Eastern Germany is today a Soviet satellite, completely under Russian domination.

Austria has continued to be united under a single national government. In eastern Austria, Soviet officials interfere to some extent with the work of the native government, but they do not wholly dominate the area. On the surface, at least, village life seems about the same in eastern Austria as in the rest of the country.

But the nation has suffered in many ways because of the Soviet occupation. Since the end of World War II, the Russians have seized more than 700 million dollars' worth of Austrian property. Right after the conflict, they tore down many factories and shipped them to Russia. They claimed that these factories were German property and thus could be taken. Frequently, the factories did have German owners, but the latter had, in a good many cases, seized the plants illegally from their Austrian owners during the Hitler era.

Among the properties seized by the Russians have been many oil fields and refineries. About two thirds of the Austrian oil output now goes to the Soviet Union.

In addition to taking oil from the fields in eastern Austria, the Russians operate 186 tax-free stores in their occupation area. Foreign Minister Leopold Figl of Austria recently estimated that his country loses some 80 million dollars a year through Russia's

store operations and oil seizures. This is a large amount of money for a small country.

Not only has the occupation been a financial burden to Austria but it is a great blow to national pride. Austria, like any other country, wants to be on its own without foreign troops on its soil. The Austrians wish that the four occupation powers would agree to draw up a peace treaty with them.

This matter has, of course, been raised time and again. The United States, Britain, and France are completely agreeable to removing their troops from the country—provided the Soviet Union recall its troops, too. Each time the subject has come up, though, the Russians have found some excuse to disagree. More than 250 meetings have been held to draw up an Austrian peace treaty—without success.

#### Soviet Foothold

Long ago it became plain that the Soviet Union has no intention of leaving Austria. Her occupation gives her a central European foothold which she does not want to give up. Moreover, it enables her to keep tight control over the satellite states of Hungary and Rumania.

Under an agreement drawn up about the end of World War II, Russia was authorized to keep "communication troops" in Hungary and Rumania to guard railway lines linking the Soviet Union and Austria. The real job of the troops has not been to guard these lines at all. Instead they have backed up the native communist governments in the satellite lands, and have been an ever-present reminder that a revolt against the authority of the Kremlin would not be tolerated.

The conclusion of a peace treaty would mean presumably that the communication troops would have to be withdrawn. The Soviet Union obviously wants to keep a close watch on its satellites, though, and thus the prospects of an Austrian peace treaty remain dim.

While the Austrians want very much to be completely on their own again, they are making the best of a bad situation. In fact, they are doing very well for an occupied country. The nation has a balanced budget, inflation is checked, and people are living better than they did just prior to World War II. There is some unemployment, but it has dropped in recent months.

One of the most spectacular of Aus-

tria's postwar achievements has been its expansion of water-power facilities. Next to Switzerland, Austria is the most mountainous land in Europe. Its swiftly falling streams are ideal for water-power development.

Right now the nation is working on eight big electricity projects. Since World War II it has tripled its output of hydro-electric energy, and within the next five years it plans to double today's production.

Much of the electric power now goes to run the nation's factories. About one third of the 7 million Austrians work in these factories, making steel, wood products, cloth, leather goods, and tools. Western Germany and Italy are Austria's biggest customers.

Another third of Austria's people make their living from the soil. They grow potatoes, corn, sugar beets, turnips, and various grains. A good deal of stock raising and dairy farming takes place. Though they work hard, Austrian farmers cannot grow enough food for the country, and farm products have to be purchased from other lands.

A big help to the Austrian economy is the tourist trade. The country's snow-capped peaks, its quaint villages, winter resorts, and beautiful lakes make it popular with visitors from other lands. Musical and theater festivals in such cities as Salzburg, Vienna, and Bregenz attract thousands of tourists.

Austria's success in getting along so well during the trying occupation period is due partly to the stability of her government. The People's Party and the Social Democrats have maintained a coalition that has held together remarkably well. The two parties have about equal strength, and together they hold almost 90 per cent of the seats in the Austrian legislature.

In spite of the presence of Russian troops in Austria, the communists have failed to win any popular following. In recent elections, their vote has remained fairly constant—at about five per cent of the total ballots cast. It is plain that the overwhelming majority of Austrians want nothing to do with communism.

When Austria will receive its long-awaited independence remains to be seen. Certainly the recent actions of the Russians indicate that the day of freedom is no closer than it was nine years ago. Meanwhile, the people of Austria will continue to go calmly about their daily tasks.



AUSTRIA has its own national government, but Russian troops occupy the eastern areas. U. S., British, and French troops are in western Austria.

# Study Guide

## Congress

- How is the voters' approval or disapproval of Congress' 1954 record likely to affect next year's House and Senate party line-up?
- Tell some results of this spring's McCarthy-Stevens hearings.
- Briefly describe the political conflict over development of commercial electric power from atomic energy.
- State at least one controversial issue that arose in connection with the tax revision bill.
- What did Congress do about foreign trade this year?
- Briefly describe the dispute over farm price supports.
- Tell what Congress did about the St. Lawrence Seaway, and about statehood for Alaska and Hawaii.
- What action was taken on the "Bricker Amendment"? State the purpose of this measure.

## Discussion

- Do you think Congress has done a good job this year? Why or why not?
- In your opinion, what was the most important issue that the lawmakers handled? Give reasons for your answer.

## Austria

- Contrast the atmosphere of Berlin with that of Vienna.
- In what way did Soviet policy toward Austria recently appear to change?
- Briefly sketch the history of Austria since 1938.
- In what respects is Austria better off than Germany?
- How has Austria suffered from the occupation?
- Why won't the Soviet Union agree to recall her troops from that country?
- How do the Austrian people make a living?
- What success have the communists had in winning a popular following in that nation?

## Discussion

- How long do you think the U. S. should continue to have troops stationed in Austria? Explain.
- In the absence of an agreement with Russia, what—if any—new steps do you think the United States might take to improve the Austrian situation?

## Miscellaneous

- Tell something about the efforts of the United States, Britain, and France to get Russia to agree to a disarmament program.
- What are the arguments for and against President Eisenhower's decision to raise the tariff on imported Swiss-made watches?
- Describe the damage that lack of rain has caused in a big part of our country's farming area.
- How have reading habits of young people changed in recent times?
- Explain dangers that may arise in the Middle East as a result of the recent British-Egyptian agreement on the Suez Canal.
- Why do some of our lawyers and judges argue that the theory and practice of communism should be taught in U. S. schools?

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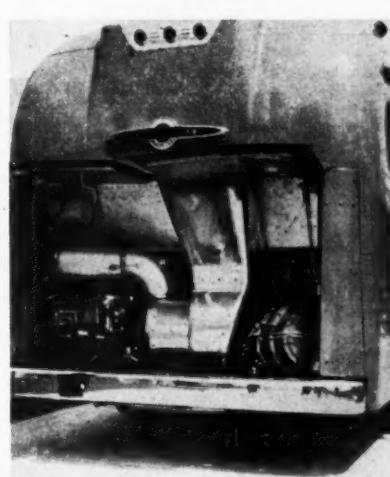
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**Navajo Indians.** Mar 15-4; Apr 5-1  
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